

City of San Diego
Office of the City Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, September 22, 1997

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City of San Diego Honors Volunteers

During Code Enforcement Week

***Volunteers and Professionals Join Together
to Remove Blight From Neighborhoods***

San Diego, CA . . . They board up or tear down dilapidated houses, keep neighborhoods clear of prostitutes, drug dealers or other illegal activities. They deter scavengers of recyclables, clean up trash, paint out graffiti, stop illegal dumping, address health and safety issues, and get rid of illegal businesses. They are dedicated to the cause of code enforcement .

Today begins a week long celebration honoring volunteers and professionals who join together toward a common goal improving the quality of life in San Diego through education and enforcement. Their work protects public safety and property values, eliminates unfair business practices, and prevents deterioration and blight in neighborhoods.

The week will begin with nearly a hundred volunteers will being recognized on Monday at a luncheon at the War Memorial Building of Balboa Park, honoring them for their dedication and commitment. On Tuesday, at 10 a.m., the San Diego City Council will proclaim the week Code Enforcement Week. The celebration will continue with in-depth training for code enforcement personnel by both the County and City of San Diego. The purpose of the focused training is to foster standards, both professional and educational, for all persons employed in or performing duties which relate to or depend upon knowledge of code enforcement procedures and regulations.

Nine different City of San Diego departments, in cooperation with the San Diego County Department of Health, play a role in enforcing codes. They include Environmental Services; City Attorney's Office, Code Enforcement Unit; Neighborhood Code Compliance; Fire and Life Safety; Police Department, Neighborhood Policing; Transportation; Water; Development Services; Park and Recreation and Metro Wastewater.

Citizens wanting to obtain information regarding code enforcement issues should visit their local community center during Code Enforcement Week. To volunteer for code enforcement projects, contact Ty Rogers, Neighborhood Code Compliance at 527-5467.

STORY IDEAS FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT WEEK

Cover the Code Enforcement Volunteer Lunch on Monday, September 22, at noon, at the War Memorial Building in Balboa Park.

Contact: Sheri Carr, Neighborhood Code Compliance, 533-6144

Shoot a cleanup during Code Enforcement Week

Contact: Sheri Carr, Neighborhood Code Compliance, 533-6144

John Turner, Environmental Services, 492-5009

View exhibits in the lobby of the City Administration Building.

Contact: Sheri Carr, Neighborhood Code Compliance, 533-6144

Do a story on Prosecution by City Attorney - Prosecution of defendants who violate codes and end up serving jail time or ordered to abate their property of nuisances.

Contact: Diane Silva Martinez, City Attorney's Office, 533-5655

Ride along with a volunteer. If you are interested in this option, let us know and we'll see if we can put it together.

Contact: Ty Rogers, Neighborhood Code Compliance, 527-5467

Do a story on scavengers - people who steal recyclables from in front of your house, making noise and dumping trash on your street.

Contact: John Turner, Environmental Services, 492-5009

CODE ENFORCEMENT

THE ROLE OF CITY OF SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENTS

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, CODE ENFORCEMENT UNIT

Civil and Criminal prosecution of state and municipal code violations

Drug and nuisance abatement actions

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Issue permits

Work with property owners to bring properties into compliance with permits

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Abatement of illegal dumps

Anti Scavenging

Community clean-ups

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY

Maintenance inspection on most occupancies

Hazardous materials

Brush and weeds

METROPOLITAN WASTEWATER

Industrial discharge permit violations

NEIGHBORHOOD CODE COMPLIANCE

Zoning and Building Codes

Substandard Housing

Graffiti

PARK AND RECREATION

Tree removal from public right-of-way,

Open-space encroachments

POLICE DEPARTMENT, NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING, DRUG ABATEMENT RESPONSE TEAM (DART)

Neighborhood policing, problem solving conditions that contribute to crime

Works in partnership with City Departments to refer code violations and address problem properties.

Vehicle Abatement Program

Aggressively address drug activity on properties

TRANSPORTATION

Storm Water Pollution Control

Plant growth onto sidewalks

Street tree maintenance

WATER

Water theft

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Animal Control, Vector Control, Clean Water

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